



# Epistle of Jude

## Jude 20,21 – Contend by Keeping Yourself in God's Love

- ***Jude 20,21 - But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.***
  - Here Jude is contrasting believers (*beloved*) from the false teachers.
  - Do we *build (y)ourselves up*?
    - This is a present active participle.
    - The opposite of separating (*y)ourselves*.
      - » *Jude 19 - These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit.*
    - Isn't this securing and enlarging upon the foundation (structural term) on which we have been established, the Lord Jesus Christ?
      - » *1 Peter 3:5 - you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.,*
      - » *Jude 3 - Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.*



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- What does *our most holy (hagios) faith* mean? '
  - *hagios* means religious awe, reverence, used 229 times in the NT!
  - This *faith* is *most holy* because it comes to us from God and reveals God to us.
    - Which book in the NT uses this term the most – *Acts, Romans Ephesians* or *Revelation*?
      - » *Acts* – 54 times.
    - Wuest - "Faith" does not refer to faith as exercised by the saint, for it is described as "most holy," **but to the Christian faith, Christianity.**'
    - Darby – 'The faith is, to the believer, a most holy faith; **he loves it, because it is so; it puts him into relationship and communion with God Himself.**'
- I thought we *prayed in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ; so, what's the role of the Holy (hagios) Spirit (pneuma)* and how do we know?
  - Yes, our prayer is directed to the Father in the name of the Son and in the power of the Holy Spirit – **the trinity is uniquely joined here!**
  - None But the Hungry Heart, **The All-pervading Cross**, 1-14 says a lot about prayer.



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- **Prayer is the outflow of the new life**; as one grows, as the Cross frees the new from the old, there is the growth of effective prayer.
- **“Without the Cross, prayer becomes a mere religious formality**-without prayer, the Cross is arrested in its purpose.
- **‘Prayer is the spring of power in conflict**, and conflict gives the proof of the value and need of prayer. It cannot be too frequently emphasized that for the believer, **the ground or basis of prayer is the death of Jesus Christ-the victory won by the Son of God on Calvary**, just as the ground.
- **Away from the Cross prayer becomes nothing more than an ecclesiastical ordinance or a religious exercise expressed in devotional phrases**; and I beg of you, when you read a book on prayer, to find out the place in it which the author gives to the Cross, and you will be able to estimate its value.” -G.W.
- Hiebert – ‘**The development of spiritual maturity** is vitally related to the practice of prayer at all times and in all places.’
- Ironside – ‘**Praying in the Holy Spirit can only result from a walk in the Spirit.**’
  - » *Rom 8:26,27 - Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, **but the Spirit Himself makes intercession with groanings which cannot be uttered.** Now He who searches the hearts knows what **the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.***



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» *Eph 6:18 - praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—*

– How do we *keep (y)ourselves in the love of God?*

- *keep – tēreō, aorist active imperative; to attend to carefully*
- Alford – ‘within that region of peculiar love wherewith God regards **all who are built up on the faith and sustained by prayer.**’
- *His love never fails!*
  - » *John 15:9 - As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; **abide in My love.***
  - » *Rom 5:5 - Now hope does not disappoint, because **the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit** who was given to us.*
  - » *Rom 8:39 - nor height nor depth, **nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.***

– Why do we need to keep *looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life*, I thought we already had this?

- *looking for - present middle participle; to receive to oneself, to admit, to give access to oneself - **this implies hope (future, not doubtful)** .*
- Wuest – ‘There is no hint here that God will stop loving them, but that they by sin in their lives would make it impossible for God to give them



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- blessings in the fullest sense. The meaning of this word seems to point to that part of eternal life which will be given the saint at the **Rapture, namely, the glorification of his physical body**’ – do you agree?
  - » *1 John 3:2 - Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.*
  - » *Titus 2:13 - looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,*
- But don't we already have a full dose of *His mercy*?
- What about our responsibility through the Holy Spirit to be in the Word?
  - » *Eph 2:4 - But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,*
  - » *Titus 3:5 - not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,*
  - » *1 Peter 1:3 - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,*
- But don't ignore the privilege we believers have, there's more to come.
  - » *Heb 4:16 - Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*